

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in response to the Office Action of January 10, 2000.

With regard to the specification, it appears that Attachment B of the Preliminary Amendment dated August 13, 1998 is in error. A specification intended to be consistent with underlined and bracketed specification of Attachment A of the Preliminary Amendment is enclosed herewith. This enclosed specification is a copy of the specification as apparently originally filed in this divisional application, but includes a modification to the first page to recite the divisional status of the application. The Applicant apologizes for these matters and invites the Examiner to telephone Applicant's counsel if further resolution or clarification is necessary.

With regard to the objections to the declaration, the Applicant filed a replacement declaration on March 23, 2000.

The specification and drawings have been extensively amended to conform to the parent application serial no. 08/899,434 as amended on December 9, 1999. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this obviates the objections of numbered paragraph 3 of the Office Action.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 83 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the Van Erden reference in view of the Heimos reference. Similarly, the Examiner has rejected Claim 84 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the EPO '731 reference in view of the Heintz reference.

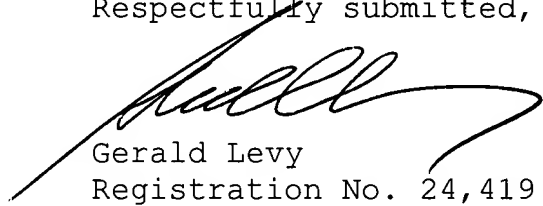
Claim 83 and 84 have been combined, thereby obviating the rejection of Claim 83. With respect to the rejection of Claim 84 (the language of which is included in newly-amended Claim 83), the EPO '731 reference discloses the peel seal on the zipper strip and not part of the top of the bag between the top edges of the walls of the bag.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 83 is patentable over the cited prior art.

For all of the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested

to withdraw his rejections of the claims, to allow the claims,
and to pass this application to early issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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